



88TH PUTNAM COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIR JULY 31-AUG. 9, 2014

***Putnam County Fair Board will meet Thursday, September 4, 2014
Junior Fair Board will join in this meeting
Justice Center – 6p***

- ***Primary focus of the meeting will be to evaluate this year's fair and make recommendations for changes for next year.***
- ***We will hear from the Junior Fair Board about what our guests told them when they ask three questions...1) What was your favorite thing/part of the fair? 2) What was your least favorite thing/part of the fair? 3) Please tell us how we can make the Putnam County Fair better next year -- Brenda Gentry, Wes Roberson and Barbara White and Junior Fair Board to bring summary of responses.***
- ***Ideas for next year -- Attachment to this Agenda of notes taken during this year's fair of suggestions for next year.***
- ***Two resignations from the Board – Kim Bradford, and Cathy Reel.***
- ***New Fair Board Members' Committee to report on potential new members – Patsy Farris, David Hunter, Wes Roberson, Tim Hartley.***
- ***TAF – Tennessee Association of Fairs Meeting in January – Cathy/Jane – room reservations, deposits, etc.***

Next Three Fair Board Meetings – All Meetings at the Justice Center unless otherwise noted.

Thursday, October 2, 2014 -- Election of Officers, and Committee Assignment finalized; Committee meetings. 501C3 Status; New Board Members; Discuss ten day schedule based on Evaluation Summary from this year's fair.

***Thursday, November 6, 2014
Finalize the ten-day schedule together for the 89th Putnam County Fair***

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Confirm via board vote what the ten-day schedule will be Plans for the Tennessee Association of Fairs Meeting in Nashville

***Suggestions for the 89th Putnam County Agricultural & Industrial Fair
July 30-August 8, 2015***

Recommend continuing Junior Fair Board with young people organizing it and coordinating its activities during the fair. Have them continue to give leadership to Farmer for the Day, the information desk in the North Exhibit Hall, assist with livestock shows and expand their responsibilities to promote entries to Putnam County Schools in late Spring and then just before the fair when schools start back.

Consider moving Mule Pulling and Fairest of the Fair out of the main arena in order to schedule events in the arena that will attract more people. Fairest of the Fair might remain in the arena if held on opening night, Thursday, July 30.

Schedule motor events/demolition derby on the first Friday and Saturday nights to attract maximum audiences.

The Spectacular Motocross was great but was too short...only lasted 1.5 hours and cost \$15,000. Suggest we have them extend it to 2 hours at least or find someone else to put on a similar event. We did get some feedback that the program ended too early.

Consider moving the rodeo to Sunday night, or a week night when admission is \$3.

Get two judges, western and walking for County Horse Show.

Schedule Truck/Tractor pulls on final Friday and Saturday nights.

Move the Back Porch Stage to the area where EMS parks, add a fence to allow folks to walk up to it, and put petting zoo in part of the first horse barn. Look at other options for use of the remaining horse barn space. Put exhibitors in this area also. If they won't come to the area east of the north exhibit hall, move them west of the north exhibit hall to where the carnival and concessions are located.

Use area where Back Porch Stage, and exhibits east of the North Grandstand for mule pulling and parking.

Combine East and North Gates, using the double gate already in place. Move the fence at East Gate to the perimeter of the fairground property. Having three gates will require fewer volunteers to work the gates.

Request more lighting be added in the North Exhibit Hall. Paint the ceiling to help make it brighter, add ceiling fans or A/C to help with cooling.

Continue to contract with the present group of volunteers to manage the Country Store.

Add permanent no parking signs to the back of the South Exhibit Hall. Opening up the patio area and having the added lighting worked great to keep the area more welcoming. The patio was well used during the fair even if mostly by smokers.

Consider promoting the area along the back of the South Exhibit Hall for pop up tents and short term stays for commercial exhibits...2 days for \$25, no passes.

Implement a pass out for fair goers using tickets left from this year's fair. We have to do something to enable folks to come and go without having to pay a second time. We have plenty of leftover tickets dated this year that can be used for this purpose. Patsy has all the left over tickets.

No trailers, tall tents, or other obstructions between concessions and Music Barn.

Several positive comments about additional handicapped parking near the north gate – most only go to the arena anyway.

Move Fairest of the Fair from the Back Porch Stage and Arena to the Music Barn where there is an air-conditioned room for participants, we can build a bigger stage between the two doors to the room and accommodate the events. The Music Barn did seat 729 people at tables and in chairs during Senior Citizen Day. With tables moved it should accommodate the audience for both pageants.

Make sure the judges for the pageants come from at least 100 miles away from Putnam County...no close by judges.

Make sure the judges do not leave the judging table during the pageant to talk to participants.

Schedule Fairest of the Fair earlier in the fair program so the winner can be at more events...perhaps have it the first Saturday night of the fair – or first Friday night of the fair.

Workers – If the fair is going to grow we have to have more help before, during and after the fair. We cannot continue to do everything with four men for 16 days.

Combine \$2,800 we pay for trash pickup to the budget item for workers, add at least two and maybe three workers and have them manage trash also. We have a couple of workers who need to be paid more – Red and Brian both needs a raise.

We have to have a production crew with an expanded fair...a crew to move tables and chairs, and set up various stages, manage mechanical issues, plumbing and lighting problems, etc. throughout the week.

Keep the one guy who came each morning and picked up trash...outstanding work. Consider adding two additional men on Sunday/Monday after the fair to help our exhausted crew in putting away all our equipment, assembling all the tables and chairs for pick up and supplies or have more board members on the grounds to help.

We need to be smarter about scheduling things that require tables, chairs, stages, etc. to be move around the fairgrounds. Particularly consider how those programs can be better coordinated so that set-up and take down of tables, chairs, etc. can be less labor intensive.

Paint South Exhibit Hall this year but maintains all murals.

Consider putting a rural school exhibit in the log cabin once the roof is made water proof.

Coordinate the Sheep and Goat shows so that the pens are set up and taken down only once.

Continue to feed the volunteers on entry taking day. Have our concession stands provide the food.

Ask Whitson Funeral Home for more tents. If possible get tents from all the funeral homes in Cookeville to keep everyone happy.

Consider hiring three people, one to work each gate with final say, to work with volunteers each night. Take up tickets from 5p – 10p each night. Then depending on the program adjust times to earlier in the day on Fridays, Saturdays and Sunday.

Have peanuts in the Music Barn.

Have gallon cans with sand in them for cigarette butts.

Add a fairground map to the fair book and in the information booth in the North Exhibit Hall, South Exhibit Hall and Music Barn.

Consider getting celebrities to judge cakes, pies, etc.

Explore badges and not passes for Radio, Maintenance, Cleaning, Volunteers – similar to the board badges without picture.

Continue to reduce the number of free passes given out for the fair.

Ask all former Fairest of the Fairs to come back again next year.

Add awards for Top Number of Entries in the Fair – 1st 2nd 3rd 4th and 5th \$100, \$80, \$70, \$60 and \$50.

Ask the Tennessee Performing Arts Troupe to come back next year.

Consider having a cooler of water at each of the three gates.

Add Brown Swiss, Ayrshire and Guernsey breeds to the Open Dairy Show. Increase premiums for the Open Beef Show to be comparable to Dairy Show premiums.

Add new classes to the Poultry Department and consider adding more Rabbit Classes. Recommendations coming from Roy Moss and a rabbit breeder in this area.

Carl, Wes and John to meet with 4-H Extension staff, and Angie and Jeremy Glascock on Monday, August 18, 1:30p at the Extension Office to discuss next year's livestock shows and what changes need to be made.

WE have also offered to meet with Melissa Henry, Wayne Key and Leigh Fuson about what changes may need to be made in the 4-H areas.

We need to get the FFA folks involved and also check with scouting to increase participation in these two areas. Need a volunteer from the Board to do this follow-up with FFA and Scouts.

Consider offering 10 school exhibits, \$200 each next year. Find the space to do this. Schools want to be involved. We had several more calls this year than we had space for.

Order entry tags from Print Link since we ran out this year. Someone tell us how many we use each year, please.

John and Wes met with Michelle Parrot, Extension Leader during the fair to discuss how we might increase participation and what changes need to be made in next year's Cultural Arts Building. Kay and John to visit with her again soon to finalize a list of things.

25 hand sanitizing stations worked great. Continue the orange barrels since Jerry Swift got them donated and they are stored at the fairgrounds.

Need more trash barrels. We did a great job keeping things picked up but we do need more barrels, and we need to make sure concessions stands police around their stands frequently. Continue having the concession stands trash blown early each morning to assure they start the day without peanut shells and cigarette butts.

We may need to extend the hours for cleaning crew to be on the grounds beyond 10p. Bathrooms and buildings were kept cleaner, noticeable cleaner than ever before per your comments. We did not receive the buildings broom clean and paid additional \$500 to have them cleaned up front per the contract. The fairgrounds aged plumbing was a challenge especially during the late evenings and peak periods requiring added attention by the cleaning crew and Brian Beachboard. If we expect Brian to keep the toilets running we have to pay him more...that is not a nice job.

Possible Draft Schedule for Next Year's fair --

***Thursday, July 30
County Appreciation Night – Admission \$1
James Gang Amusements
Music in the Music Barn
Concession Stands Open***

Fairest of the Fair could be held on this evening giving the winner more events to assist with.

We could do County Horse Show as an Opening event?

***Friday, July 31
Opening for the 89th Putnam County Fair
Rodeo/Open to the World Walking Horse Show
Mule Pulling – East grounds.
Admission \$5***

***Saturday, August 1
Entries Taken 7:30a – 12:00 noon***

***Western Horse Show – All Day – Main Arena
Sheep Show – 4p
Demolition Derby
Admission \$5***

***Sunday, August 2
Goat Show – 4p
Second Demolition Derby
Little Miss Fairest of the Fair – Music Barn
Admission \$5***

***Monday, August 3
Admission \$3
Program to be Determined – Motor Event***

***Tuesday, August 4
County Horse Show or other event
Open Dairy Show – Big Barn -- 6p
Admission \$3***

***Wednesday, August 5
Extreme Motocross Spectacular (longer program or less cost)
Admission \$5***

***Thursday, August 6
Wild Mule Show
Admission \$3***

***Friday, August 7
Admission \$5
Truck and Tractor Pull***

***Saturday, August 8
Open Beef Cattle Show – Big Barn ---2p
Admission \$5
Second Truck and Tractor Pull***

***Suggest we schedule five motor type events...both Fridays, both Saturdays
and on Sunday night or one week night.***

